

Department of Marine & Wildlife Resources
Report on the NMFS Logbook Program for the
American Samoa Longline Fishery
Calendar Year 2002

May 2, 2003

The Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) began processing the longline logbook data locally at the beginning of the year 2000. Logbook data is summarized by date of haul as shown by the table below. All submitted logbook data for longline activities during 2002 have been processed and are reported in this preliminary report. However as of April 11, 2003, the documented delinquency rate according to the DMWR Daily Effort Census and Delinquency Reporting System for 2002 was 9.51%. Therefore, the data in this report are preliminary and are from the logs submitted to DMWR as of April 11, 2003.

According to the Daily Effort Census 70 vessels were engaged in longline fishing during 2002. Of these 60 vessels turned in longline logs for sets made during the year as shown by Figure 1. The 10 delinquent vessels were all alias, some located in remote villages outside the normal sampling area, and all had relatively minor catch and effort during the year according to cross-checks into the cannery landings database. The logbooks submitted by the 60 vessels indicated they made 6,861 sets and set 13,076,975 hooks. Even though the number of vessels turning in logs is down from the peak of 67 last year, the number of sets is up by 43% and the number of hooks set is up by 125% due to the increasing proportion of large vessels in the fleet.

Albacore continued to dominate the catch with 333,196 fish caught in 2002 as shown by figure 4. This is a 77% increase over the record catch of last year. Catches of skipjack tuna experienced almost a 5 fold increase from last year, while catches of yellowfin tuna increased by 107% and bigeye tuna increased by 119%. (see figure 5). Catches for billfishes, mahimahi, wahoo, and sharks for 2002 were 5,383 billfish, 9,169 mahimahi, 13,928 wahoo and 10,511 sharks as shown by Figure 6.

Albacore CPUE decreased 27% to 25.48 fish per 1000 hooks in 2002 compared to a CPUE of 32.4 for 2001 as shown by Figure 7. The CPUE for skipjack tuna increased by 118% while the CPUE for yellowfin and bigeye tuna changed little from 2001. Mahimahi and billfish CPUEs were slightly lower. Sharks CPUEs increased by 25% while wahoo CPUE increased by 46% compared to 2001 as shown by figure 9.

Western Pacific Logbook Summary Report for Calendar Year 2002

Vessels landing or based in American Samoa

Based on Date of Haul for all areas

TRIP INFORMATION

Number of Vessels:	60
Number of Sets:	6861
1000's of Hooks Set:	13077
Number of Lightsticks Used:	3774

CATCH INFORMATION

Species	# Caught	# Kept	# Finned	# Caught/ 1000 Hooks
BILLFISH				
Black marlin	59	10		0.00
Blue marlin	3736	419		0.29
Striped Marlin	428	58		0.03
Sailfish	353	82		0.03
Spearfish	288	74		0.02
Swordfish	519	299		0.04
TOTALS	5383	942		0.41
SHARKS				
Blue shark	7868	34	3	0.60
Mako Shark	265	2		0.02
Thresher Shark	431	4	1	0.03
White-Tip Shark	1599	23	6	0.12
Other Sharks	348	5	2	0.03
TOTALS	10511	68	12	0.80
TUNA				
Albacore	333196	332415		25.48
Bigeye Tuna	11734	9136		0.90
Bluefin Tuna	62	24		0.00
Skipjack Tuna	64285	45354		4.92
Yellowfin Tuna	19476	17287		1.49
TOTALS	428753	404216		32.79
OTHER PELAGICS				
Mahimahi	9169	5635		0.70
Moonfish	915	184		0.07
Oilfish	6346	62		0.49
Pomfret	1061	270		0.08
Wahoo	13928	11637		1.07
TOTALS	31419	17788		2.40
NON-PMUS				
Other Pelagic Fish	2789	34		0.21
TOTALS	2789	34		0.21

**Western Pacific Logbook Summary of Protected Species Interactions
for Calendar Year 2002**

For vessels landing or based in American Samoa

Based on Date of Haul

Species	Alive	Injured	Dead	TOTAL
SEALS				
Monk Seal	0	0	0	0
Sea Lion	0	0	0	0
Other Seals	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0
DOLPHINS				
Bottlenose Dolphin	0	0	0	0
Spinner Dolphin	0	0	0	0
Other Dolphins	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0
WHALES				
Humpback Whale	0	0	0	0
False Killer Whale	0	0	0	0
Other Whales	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0
TURTLES				
Green Turtle	0	0	0	0
Leatherback Turtle	0	0	0	0
Loggerhead Turtle	0	0	0	0
Olive Ridley Turtle	0	0	0	0
Hawksbill Turtle	0	0	0	0
Hardshell Turtles	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0
BIRDS				
Black-foot Albatross	0	0	0	0
Laysan Albatross	0	0	0	0
Short-Tailed Albatross	0	0	0	0
Moonfish	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	0

Figure 1. American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year

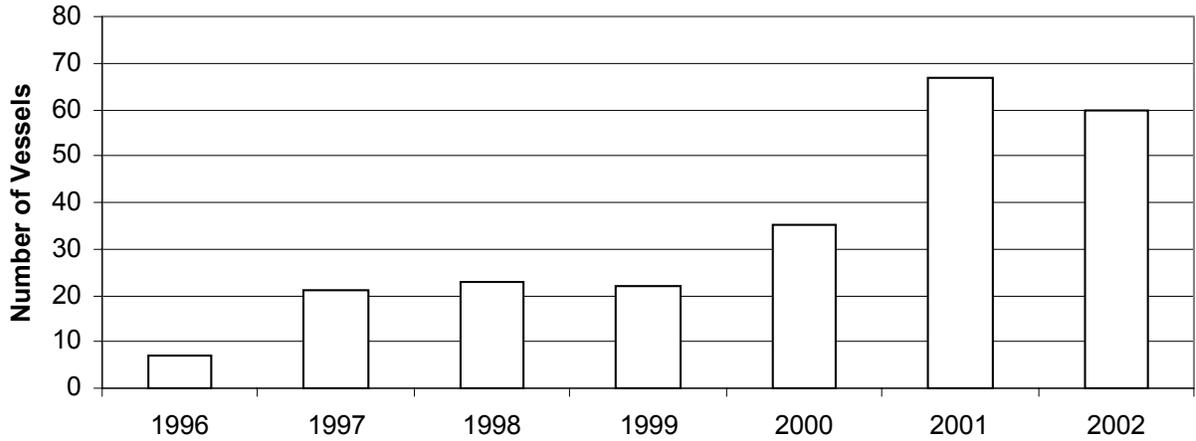


Figure 2. Number of Sets by American Samoa Longline Vessels by Year

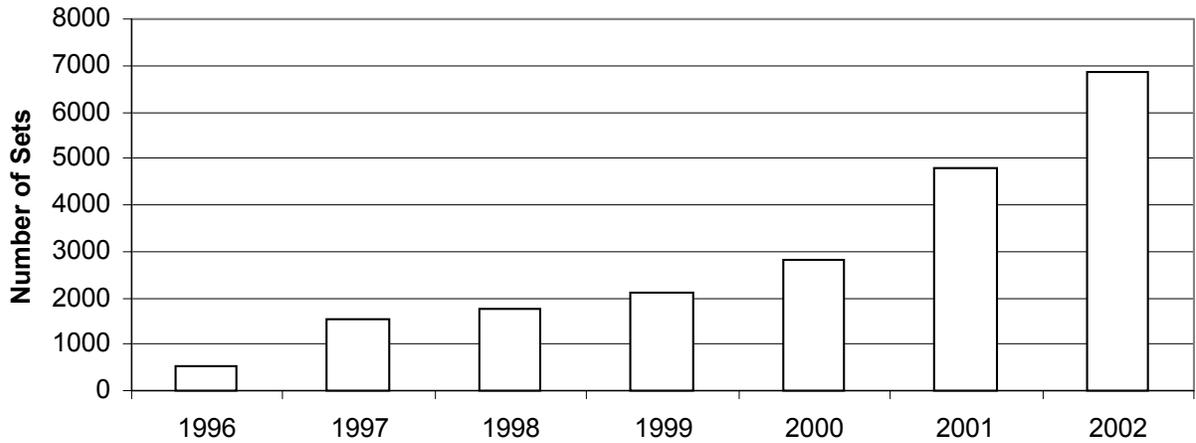


Figure 3. Number of Hooks Set by the American Samoa Longline Fleet by Year

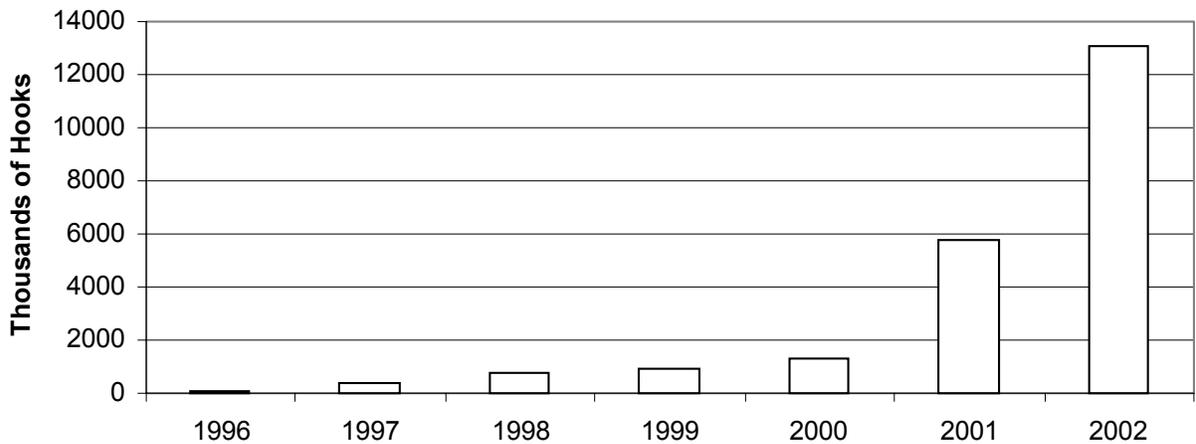


Figure 4. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch by Year

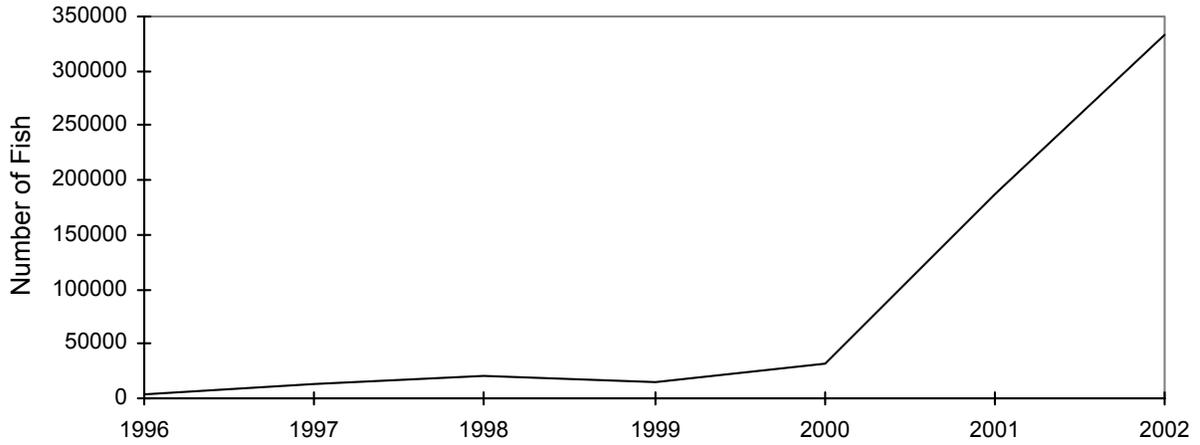


Figure 5. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch by Year

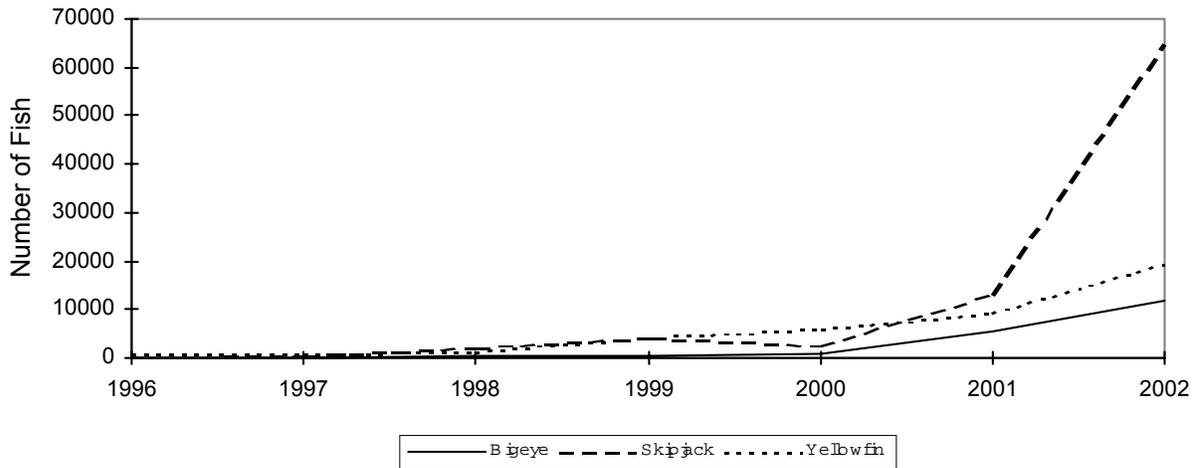


Figure 6. American Samoa Longline Catch of Miscellaneous Pelagic Fish by Year

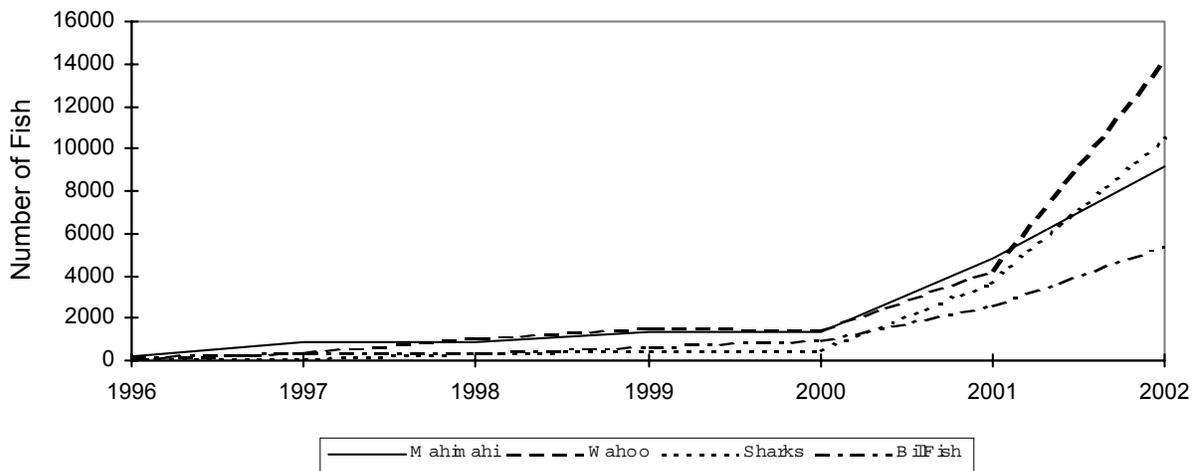


Figure 7. American Samoa Longline Albacore Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year

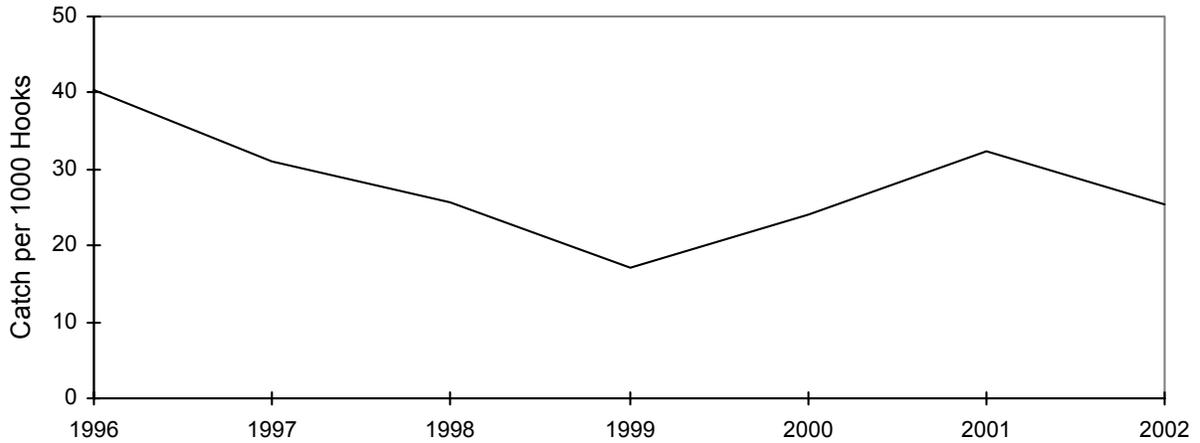


Figure 8. American Samoa Longline Tuna Catch per 1000 Hooks by Year

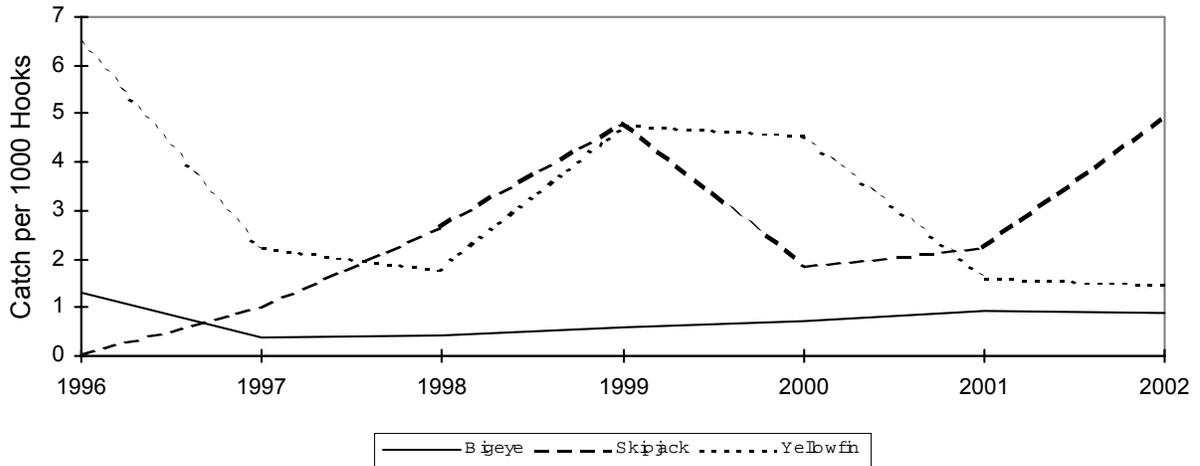


Figure 9. American Samoa Longline Catch of Other Pelagic Fish per 1000 Hooks by Year

